



Peter Hauer

### End of Tragedy

A skeleton hanging high in a tree was found Thanksgiving afternoon and apparently ends the mystery of the Walter Smith—Peter Hauer tragedy. The identification of the bones as being those of Peter Marshall Hauer was positively confirmed Monday by the State's Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Ivan Sopher, in a call to Corporal W. R. Dyer, State Policeman, of Marlinton, who was in charge of the investigation. Comparison was made to dental and skull X-rays supplied by his family doctor. His death was ruled a suicide by hanging and the time of death was judged to be in accordance with the time of Hauer's disappearance about June 9. The heavy foliage at that time of year had prevented the sighting of the body in the intensive search in June, and, of course, the search had centered on caves.

Sammy Dean, of Hillsboro, and his eleven year old son, Larkin, were hunting in the Lobelia area Thursday (November 27) when the boy saw the skull in the tree. The head and part of the neck skeleton was with a four foot section of rope about 30 feet above the ground. The remainder of the skeletonized body had fallen to the ground. The location was about two and a half miles from Hauer's home on the old Hull place owned by Elmer Wymer, as near as we can ascertain.

Hauer was born November 11, 1945, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. His mother, Carmelia Hauer, and a sister, Lisa, survive him. He was a former teacher and his interest in caves had brought him to the Lobelia area, where he purchased the Harper Anderson farm. He was working on a history of salt peter caves in Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe Counties.

Corporal Dyer says that he is satisfied this is the end of the mystery that began with the disappearance in the Lobelia area of Walter G. Smith, 18, of Follansbee, a summer worker at Watoga State Park, on June 4. Hauer was last seen the following Monday. Smith's body, with three bullet holes in the head, was found on Wednesday, June 11, in the Lobelia Saltpeter Cave, right close to Hauer's home, after a last will and testament paper of Hauer's was found in his house telling of the murder and where Smith's body was and that his own body would eventually be found in a cave, hence the exhaustive search of caves in the area that followed.

Permission to print the paper was denied Monday as it is part of criminal evidence but it evidently will have to be recorded to effect the transfer of the 28 acre farm which Hauer wanted to go to the Nature Conservancy, a national group dedicated to preserving areas in their natural state. The typed will was signed but not witnessed.

Hauer had been indicted for Smith's murder at the October Term of Court and so the case is judged a murder-suicide and the case considered closed.

### In Memory

#### Peter Hauer

*May God rest your soul and give you peace. And may your acts of kindness shine over the darkness of your passing.*

*Your Friends*

#### Mrs. Lloyd D. Wilson

Mrs. Jessie Gray McFerrin Wilson, 77, of Mill Point, died Monday, May 15, 1978, at Denmar State Hospital after several years' illness.

She was a schoolteacher before her marriage to Lloyd Wilson, who preceded her in death in 1971. She was a member of the Marvin Chapel Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wilson was the daughter of the late Dr. Samuel A. McFerrin, Sr., and Mary Virginia Hanna McFerrin.

Surviving her are a brother, Edward McFerrin, of Frankford, and one nephew, Samuel A. McFerrin, III, of Renick.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

### History of Hillsboro Community

(Pocahontas County)  
By Mary Isetta Wallace

The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seebert and named in honor of a family by that name which settled there in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina, who built his home on a good farm in the neighboring Lobelia. His house was an unusually good one for that age. Simon Girty, the renegade, told that Indians were so impressed with the fine display of the home of Mr. Hill that they called him white man's king.

The house was built of hewed logs, and the space between filled with wood, mortar or mud, and then white washed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys, and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill and, because of his sterling worth, "will sing his requiem as long as its waters flow." The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice sixty or more feet high forming a perfect spray and creating the beautiful Falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named after the first settler, John Bruffey, son of Patrick Bruffey, the pioneer, a revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time of flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop Mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust Creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. Bruffeys Creek forms Hughes Creek and after sinking and partly sinking for two miles, empties into the Blue Hole. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill founded their homes in the Hillsboro Community.

The majority of the people of Hillsboro Community are of Scotch-Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets and at the present time under the stimulus of



oral Dyer says that he  
fied this is the end of  
ystery that began with  
appearance in the Lo-  
rea of Walter G. Smith,  
Follansbee, a summer  
at Watoga State Park,  
ne 4. Hauer was last  
e following Monday.  
s body, with three bul-  
oles in the head, was  
on Wednesday, June 11,  
Lobelia Saltpeter Cave,  
close to Hauer's home,  
a last will and testament  
of Hauer's was found in  
house telling of the murder  
where Smith's body was  
hat his own body would  
ually be found in a cave,  
the exhaustive search of  
in the area that followed.  
mission to print the pap-  
as denied Monday as it is  
of criminal evidence but  
idently will have to be re-  
ed to effect the transfer of  
28 acre farm which Hauer  
ted to go to the Nature  
servancy, a national group  
cated to preserving areas  
their natural state. The typ-  
ill was signed but not wit-  
ed.

Hauer had been indicted for  
Smith's murder at the October  
term of Court and so the case  
adged a murder-suicide and  
case considered closed.

### In Memory

#### Peter Hauer

May God rest your  
soul and give you  
peace. And may  
your acts of kindness  
shine over the dark-  
ness of your passing.

Your Friends

#### Mrs. Lloyd D. Wilson

Mrs. Jessie Gray McFerrin  
Wilson, 77, of Mill Point, died  
Monday, May 15, 1978, at  
Penmar State Hospital after  
several years' illness.

She was a schoolteacher be-  
fore her marriage to Lloyd  
Wilson, who preceded her in  
death in 1971. She was a  
member of the Marvin Chap-  
man Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wilson was the daugh-  
ter of the late Dr. Samuel A.  
McFerrin, Sr., and Mary Vir-  
ginia Hanna McFerrin.

Surviving her are a brother,  
Edward McFerrin, of Frank-  
ford, and one nephew, Samuel  
A. McFerrin, III, of Renick.

Funeral arrangements are

### History of Hillsboro Community

(Pocahontas County)

By Mary Isetta Wallace

The town of Hillsboro is  
located in a rich and beauti-  
ful valley. It is two and  
one-half miles from the  
nearest railroad station  
called Seebert and named  
in honor of a family by that  
name which settled there in  
the wilderness in the early  
days. Hillsboro was named  
for Richard Hill, the pio-  
neer from North Carolina,  
who built his home on a  
good farm in the neighbor-  
ing Lobelia. His house was  
an unusually good one for  
that age. Simon Girty, the  
renegade, told that Indians  
were so impressed with the  
fine display of the home of  
Mr. Hill that they called  
him white man's king.

The house was built of  
hewed logs, and the space  
between filled with wood,  
mortar or mud, and then  
white washed. It had three  
porches, two tall chimneys,  
and eight rooms. Hills  
Creek was named for Mr.  
Hill and, because of his  
sterling worth, "will sing  
his requiem as long as its  
waters flow." The creek  
flows through a narrow  
channel which increases its  
velocity until it plunges  
over a precipice sixty or  
more feet high forming a  
perfect spray and creating  
the beautiful Falls of Hills  
Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named  
after the first settler, John  
Bruffey, son of Patrick  
Bruffey, the pioneer, a  
revolutionary soldier under  
General Wayne, unites in  
time of flood with Hills  
Creek where their waters  
sink under Droop Mountain  
to appear again in the lower  
end of the Little Levels.  
Hills Creek forms Locust  
Creek and empties into the  
Greenbrier River. Bruffeys  
Creek forms Hughes Creek  
and after sinking and partly  
sinking for two miles, emp-  
ties into the Blue Hole.

Many of the numerous  
progeny of Richard Hill  
founded their homes in the  
Hillsboro Community.

The majority of the peo-  
ple of Hillsboro Community  
are of Scotch-Irish descent,  
their chief pursuits being  
agriculture and stock rais-  
ing. Many fine herds of  
cattle and sheep, from time  
immemorial, have been  
prepared for the eastern  
markets and at the present

C. Willey, the farmers are  
becoming thoroughly  
aroused to the importance  
of purebred stock.

As the traveler ascends  
by an easy climb and gentle  
undulations the winding  
road cut on the face of  
Droop Mountain he beholds  
a panorama of unsurpassed  
loveliness when the sun  
pours his effulgent warmth  
and brightness over the  
mountains, plains, valleys  
and hills as they unite in  
proclaiming "The Lord  
reigneth, let the earth re-  
joice." He also beholds

historic ground, for it was  
at the foot of Droop Moun-  
tain where General Averill  
with 5000 men pitched their  
tents before the Battle of  
Droop Mountain which be-  
gan on November 6, 1863.

Hillsboro has always  
been a religious and educa-  
tional center. John Jordan  
of pioneer fame gave a  
building site to the Meth-  
odist church which was  
destroyed by fire and they  
have since built four other  
churches in the community  
and now worship in a very  
comfortable, commodious  
building in the town of  
Hillsboro. In extracts from  
the journal of Rev. Francis  
Asbury we find that in the  
years 1788, 1790 and 1796  
he had made three evange-  
listic tours through this  
section of the country com-  
ing up through Greenbrier  
County each time and being  
entertained and preaching  
at the home of McNeel in  
the Little Levels, going  
from there to the Drinnon  
home where he was receiv-  
ed "gladly" and entertain-  
ed "kindly" in the Edray  
neighborhood. His course  
led from there to Cloverlick  
down through Tygarts Val-  
ley in Randolph County  
enroute to Morgantown. At  
the McNeel home lively  
religious discussions were  
indulged in by the whole  
community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian  
Church was organized in  
the year of 1793. The early  
records of the Church were  
lost and no one remembers  
when it was built. A  
substantial brick structure  
in which this sect wor-  
shipped for many years was  
later built southeast of  
Hillsboro, where the ceme-  
tery is still kept up. In 1830  
the Church was reorganiz-  
ed and Josiah Beard, Davis  
Poague, and John Jordan  
were elected elders. The  
most distinguished minis-



Dr. Dyer says that this is the end of a story that began with the appearance in the Lobelia of Walter G. Smith, Follansbee, a summer at Watoga State Park, on the 4. Hauer was last seen following Monday. His body, with three bullets in the head, was found on Wednesday, June 11, in Lobelia Saltpeter Cave, close to Hauer's home. His last will and testament of Hauer's was found in the cave telling of the murder where Smith's body was found. It was his own body would be found in a cave, the exhaustive search of the area that followed. The mission to print the paper was denied Monday as it is a case of criminal evidence but it is not likely to be released to effect the transfer of the 3 acre farm which Hauer had been indicted for his murder at the October session of Court and so the case was considered closed.

*In Memory*

*Peter Hauer*

*May God rest your soul and give you peace. And may your acts of kindness shine over the darkness of your passing.*

*Your Friends*

**Mrs. Lloyd D. Wilson**

Mrs. Jessie Gray McFerrin Wilson, 77, of Mill Point, died Monday, May 15, 1978, at Shenandoah State Hospital after several years' illness.

She was a schoolteacher before her marriage to Lloyd Wilson, who preceded her in death in 1971. She was a member of the Marvin Chapel Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wilson was the daughter of the late Dr. Samuel A. McFerrin, Sr., and Mary Virginia Hanna McFerrin.

Surviving her are a brother, Edward McFerrin, of Frankfort, and one nephew, Samuel McFerrin, III, of Renick.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

The body is at the Jack K. Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg.

By Mary Isetta Wallace  
The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seebert and named in honor of a family by that name which settled there in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina, who built his home on a good farm in the neighboring Lobelia. His house was an unusually good one for that age. Simon Girty, the renegade, told that Indians were so impressed with the fine display of the home of Mr. Hill that they called him white man's king.

The house was built of hewed logs, and the space between filled with wood, mortar or mud, and then white washed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys, and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill and, because of his sterling worth, "will sing his requiem as long as its waters flow." The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice sixty or more feet high forming a perfect spray and creating the beautiful Falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named after the first settler, John Bruffey, son of Patrick Bruffey, the pioneer, a revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time of flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop Mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust Creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. Bruffey's Creek forms Hughes Creek and after sinking and partly sinking for two miles, empties into the Blue Hole. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill founded their homes in the Hillsboro Community.

The majority of the people of Hillsboro Community are of Scotch-Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets and at the present time under the stimulus of our county agent, Mr. H. C.

As the traveler ascends by an easy climb and gentle undulations the winding road cut on the face of Droop Mountain he beholds a panorama of unsurpassed loveliness when the sun pours his effulgent warmth and brightness over the mountains, plains, valleys and hills as they unite in proclaiming "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." He also beholds

historic ground, for it was at the foot of Droop Mountain where General Averill with 5000 men pitched their tents before the Battle of Droop Mountain which began on November 6, 1863.

Hillsboro has always been a religious and educational center. John Jordan of pioneer fame gave a building site to the Methodist church which was destroyed by fire and they have since built four other churches in the community and now worship in a very comfortable, commodious building in the town of Hillsboro. In extracts from the journal of Rev. Francis Asbury we find that in the years 1788, 1790 and 1796 he had made three evangelistic tours through this section of the country coming up through Greenbrier County each time and being entertained and preaching at the home of McNeel in the Little Levels, going from there to the Drinnon home where he was received "gladly" and entertained "kindly" in the Edray neighborhood. His course led from there to Cloverlick down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the McNeel home lively religious discussions were indulged in by the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year of 1793. The early records of the Church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in which this sect worshipped for many years was later built southeast of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the Church was reorganized and Josiah Beard, Davis Poague, and John Jordan were elected elders. The most distinguished ministers who served this Church

*over*



48

from 1820 to 1872 were Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Wm. G. Campbell, Rev. John S. Blain, Rev. Mitchel B. Dunlap, and Rev. D. S. Sydenstricker.

A new church, a frame building, was built in the town of Hillsboro, where the present church is located, in the early ministry of Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. J. C. Johnson. The frame church was torn down in the year of 1910, as it was deemed advisable to repair the old church with a new one. A new brick building occupies the site and bears the name of "Oak Grove Church" in memory of the pioneer church although surrounded by a maple grove. The two prevailing denominations, Methodists and Presbyterians, have been signally blessed in securing ministers of great spiritual vision and consecration, for which is expressed their gratitude and appreciation.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the village of Hillsboro.

Under the supervision of Rev. Joseph Brown the brick Academy was built and contained one large central room with two wings. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy," so strong was the impress of the school's influence on the minds and the hearts of the people. In recent years the old name of Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

M. A. Dunlap of Ponca City, Oklahoma, has contributed some recollections of ante bellum days from his remarkable memory of conversations heard in the home of his uncle, Rev. M. D. Dunlap. He thinks the first teacher ever in Hillsboro community was a man by the name of Keenan who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher was considered a very learned man from the fact that he could write and read and had figured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three. The next teacher was Rev. John S. Blain, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher, and a physician. He is described as a large, lean, strong, man possessed of a kindly face and gentle heart. The descrip-

whipped 13 boys the second day of school, 21 the third day, and 5 and 6 each day for about a week. After

that no further trouble was experienced. But the school had an unsavory reputation that had to be disciplined, and he used the means within his power. The wife of Dr. Blain was a Miss MacRoberts, sister of Archibald MacRoberts, who made his home with them and told that panthers would sometimes enter their spring house and drink their milk. Mr. MacRoberts, whose father was a Randolph of Roanoke and descendant of Pocahontas, was the next teacher. He was well educated and a man of great talents that he used only under compulsion. He was a Whig, and in a campaign then being conducted between a Whig and a Democrat—in which the Whig was defeated in the argument—Mr. MacRoberts became so disgusted that he followed them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it suit to steer clear of his antagonist.

The next teacher was Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle, Christian character greatly endeared him to the people; and it is to be taken for granted that as he was instrumental in the building of the brick Academy he must have been the first teacher within its walls. Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County; Tyrees and others of Fayette County; the Hayneses and others of Monroe County; the Johnsons, Bears, and others of Greenbrier County; the Bensons, Lightners, and Ruckmans, of Highland County, Virginia. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the help of the more advanced pupils, notably Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haynes. It was his opinion that about eighty pupils were as many as one man could handle.

Mr. Kelso, of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey, of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one session, and after the close of school were married and

school. Rev. Daniel A. Penick filled the position of teacher one year, boarded at Colonel Paul McNeel's and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Mr. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeels, and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Mr. Emerson was said to be a relative of Ralph Waldo Emerson, a native of New England. Miss Mary S. Loverage, Connecticut, taught in Hillsboro at the same time but in a different building. Mr. Emerson became one of her most ardent admirers, but her choice fell on Mr. Henry Clark. Mr. Dunlap is under the impression that Mr. Emerson never married, which is erroneous one because established a school for young ladies at Shemaro, Augusta County, Virginia, in which he was assisted by his wife. Miss M. Sprinkel taught in the

of Colonel McNeel the year of the Civil War was betrothed to John Gess, the first man in this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through the country.

From the foregoing interesting data it is easy to understand why so many noble and worthy lives were moulded in this fine institution of learning. The names of Mr. Harmanius Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, braved the perils of the deep on the rugged seas of that day and came to dwell among us where the country was in its infancy. They were valuable contributions to the social life of the community and their devoted piety accomplished much good in this the land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius Stulting, eldest son of the family, was a fine scholar for many years and recently, mourned the loss of a son who knew him. Mr. Stulting Sydenstricker

daughter in the year of the Civil War gave her life as a missionary to China, being a member of the O. C. Church.

Rev. J. S. Kersey, minister now in a Presbyterian, N. C.,



ed, in the early  
Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker.  
He was succeeded by the  
present pastor, Rev. J. C.  
Johnson. The frame church  
was torn down in the year  
of 1910, as it was deemed  
advisable to repair the old  
church with a new one. A  
new brick building occupies  
the site and bears the name  
of "Oak Grove Church" in  
memory of the pioneer  
church although surround-  
ed by a maple grove. The  
two prevailing denomina-  
tions, Methodists and Pres-  
byterians, have been sig-  
nally blessed in securing  
ministers of great spiritual  
vision and consecration, for  
which is expressed their  
gratitude and appreciation.

In the early part of the  
eighteenth century a very  
important educational work  
flourished in what was then  
the village of Hillsboro.  
Under the supervision of  
Rev. Joseph Brown the  
brick Academy was built  
and contained one large  
central room with two  
wings. The name of Hills-  
boro was abandoned in  
deference to that of "Acad-  
emy," so strong was the  
impress of the school's  
influence on the minds and  
the hearts of the people. In  
recent years the old name  
of Hillsboro has been re-  
stored to the town.

M. A. Dunlap of Ponca  
City, Oklahoma, has con-  
tributed some recollections  
of ante bellum days from  
his remarkable memory of  
conversations heard in the  
home of his uncle, Rev. M.  
D. Dunlap. He thinks the  
first teacher ever in Hills-  
boro community was a man  
by the name of Keenan who  
taught more than a hun-  
dred years ago. This  
teacher was considered a  
very learned man from the  
fact that he could write and  
read and had figured in the  
arithmetic as far as the rule  
of three. The next teacher  
was Rev. John S. Blain, a  
Presbyterian preacher, a  
teacher, and a physician.  
He is described as a large,  
lean, strong, man possess-  
ed of a kindly face and  
gentle heart. The descrip-  
tion is somewhat contradic-  
tory as he is said to have

was a Miss  
sister of Archibald Mac-  
Roberts, who made his  
home with them and told  
that panthers would some-  
times enter their spring  
house and drink their milk.  
Mr. MacRoberts, whose  
father was a Randolph of  
Roanoke and descendant of  
Pocahontas, was the next  
teacher. He was well  
educated and a man of  
great talents that he used  
only under compulsion. He  
was a Whig, and in a  
campaign then being con-  
ducted between a Whig and  
a Democrat—in which the  
Whig was defeated in the  
argument—Mr. MacRob-  
erts became so disgusted  
that he followed them to the  
next appointment and so  
completely routed the Dem-  
ocrat that he made it suit to  
steer clear of his antagonist

The next teacher was  
Rev. Joseph Brown whose  
gentle, Christian character  
greatly endeared him to the  
people; and it is to be taken  
for granted that as he was  
instrumental in the build-  
ing of the brick Academy he  
must have been the first  
teacher within its walls.

Rev. M. D. Dunlap suc-  
ceeded him and taught  
from 1835 to 1845. His  
school had a wide reputa-  
tion among his pupils and  
enjoyed the patronage of  
the Lewises and Irwins of  
Kanawha County; Tyrees  
and others of Fayette Coun-  
ty; the Hayneses and others  
of Monroe County; the  
Johnsons, Bears, and oth-  
ers of Greenbrier County;  
the Bensons, Lightners,  
and Ruckmans, of Highland  
County, Virginia. He  
taught throughout the en-  
tire year and sought the  
help of the more advanc-  
ed pupils, notably Rev.  
Wm. T. Price and Rev.  
James Haynes. It was his  
opinion that about eighty  
pupils were as many as one  
man could handle.

Mr. Kelso, of Pennsyl-  
vania, and Miss Priscilla  
Ramsey, of Augusta Coun-  
ty, Virginia, taught one  
session, and after the close  
of school were married and  
went to western Pennsyl-  
vania to conduct a boarding

Academy. Mr. Emerson  
was said to be a relative of  
Ralph Waldo Emerson and  
a native of New England.  
Miss Mary S. Loverage, of  
Connecticut, taught in  
Hillsboro at the same time,  
but in a different building.  
Mr. Emerson became one  
of her most ardent admir-  
ers, but her choice fell to  
Mr. Henry Clark. Mr.  
Dunlap is under the im-  
pression that Mr. Emerson  
never married, which is an  
erroneous one because he  
established a school for  
young ladies at Shemariah,  
Augusta County, Virginia,  
in which he was assisted by  
his wife. Miss May  
Sprinkel taught in the home

of Colonel McNeel the first  
year of the Civil War and  
was betrothed to John Bur-  
gess, the first man from  
this community to be killed  
by the Northern soldiers in  
their initial raid through the  
country.

From the foregoing inter-  
esting data it is easy to  
understand why so many  
noble and worthy lives were  
moulded in this fine institu-  
tion of learning. The lives  
of Mr. Harmanus Stulting  
and family deserve speci-  
al mention. They were na-  
tives of Holland, and to  
escape religious persecu-  
tion, braved the perils  
of that day and came  
to dwell among us when the  
country was in its infancy.  
They were valuable ad-  
ditions to the social life of  
the community and through  
their devoted piety  
accomplished much good  
in this the land of their ad-  
option. Mr. Cornelius S.  
Stulting, eldest son in  
the family, was a fine tea-  
cher for many years and  
recently, mourned by  
those who knew him. Mrs. C.  
Stulting Sydenstricker

daughter in the fa-  
mily gave her life as a mi-  
nistry to China, being  
a member of the Oak  
Church.

Rev. J. S. Kennis  
minister now in Alb-  
Presbytery, N. C., is  
another worthy representa-  
tive of the Master's cause



34-aa020.jpg  
it no further trouble was experienced. But the school had an unsavory reputation that had to be disciplined, and he used means within his power. The wife of Dr. Blain, a Miss MacRoberts, sister of Archibald MacRoberts, who made his home with them and told the panthers would sometimes enter their spring house and drink their milk.

MacRoberts, whose mother was a Randolph of Cahontas, was the next teacher. He was well educated and a man of great talents that he used only under compulsion. He was a Whig, and in a campaign then being conducted between a Whig and Democrat—in which the Whig was defeated in the argument—Mr. MacRoberts became so disgusted that he followed them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it suit to be clear of his antagonist.

The next teacher was Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle, Christian character greatly endeared him to the people; and it is to be taken for granted that as he was instrumental in the building of the brick Academy he must have been the first teacher within its walls. Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County; Tyrees and others of Fayette County; the Hayneses and others of Monroe County; the Johnsons, Bears, and others of Greenbrier County; the Bensons, Lightners, and Ruckmans, of Highland County, Virginia. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the help of the more advanced pupils, notably Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haynes. It was his opinion that about eighty pupils were as many as one man could handle.

Mr. Kelso, of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey, of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one session, and after the close of school were married and went to western Pennsylvania to conduct a boarding

and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Mr. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeels, and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Mr. Emerson was said to be a relative of Ralph Waldo Emerson and a native of New England. Miss Mary S. Loverage, of Connecticut, taught in Hillsboro at the same time, but in a different building. Mr. Emerson became one of her most ardent admirers, but her choice fell to Mr. Henry Clark. Mr. Dunlap is under the impression that Mr. Emerson never married, which is an erroneous one because he established a school for young ladies at Shemariah, Augusta County, Virginia, in which he was assisted by his wife. Miss May Sprinkel taught in the home

of Colonel McNeel the first year of the Civil War and was betrothed to John Burgess, the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through the country.

From the foregoing interesting data it is easy to understand why so many noble and worthy lives were moulded in this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Harmanus Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, braved the perils of the deep on the rude craft of that day and came to dwell among us when the country was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their devoted piety accomplished much good in this the land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius Stulting, eldest son in the family, was a fine teacher for many years and died recently, mourned by all who knew him. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a daughter in the family, gave her life as a missionary to China, being sent as a member of the Oak Grove Church.

Rev. J. S. Kennison, a minister now in Albemarle Presbytery, N. C., is another worthy representative in the Master's cause from

Neel, of Frederick County, Virginia. He was of a pugilistic temperament and, in the fear that he had slain an antagonist, fled from his native land and became a fugitive who followed the trend of the Alleghanies. After spending some time in their gloomy depths he emerged into this section of the country and was so favorably impressed with the fertile land, fine timber, and the general outlook of a goodly place in which to dwell, that he cast his tent on the gentle slope between where are now the gate at the road and the Matthew John McNeel residence.

He came here in the year 1765. After he began to occupy his tent or camp, padded, muffled, footsteps were heard circling the camp at night. He feigned sleep, keeping his gun near at hand, until he heard something stealthily creep upon the poles forming the roof. When he looked in the direction of the sound he beheld, by the light of the camp fire, the fiery eyes of a panther. He lost no time getting rid of the unwelcome visitor.

One day while out hunting for venison and fish he met Charles and Jacob Kennison, natives of his home land, who proved angels in disguise in bringing to him the glad tidings that the man he thought he had killed had recovered and was in good health. Imagination fails to convey the great relief and gratitude that filled his heart to know he was not a murderer, of which his future life gave convincing evidence. He invited the Kennisons to share his camp and aided them in selecting a home site adjoining his tract. About this time John McNeel must have built himself a cabin in the rear of the Matthew John McNeel residence, near a wonderful spring in that locality. These three men soon returned to the lower valley of Virginia. It was on this visit that he married Martha Davis who was born in Wales in 1740. Soon after their marriage they came to the Little Levels to make their home. They brought with them a Welch Bible now in the possession of Joseph S. McNeel, son of



ipped 13 boys the second of school, 21 the third, and 5 and 6 each day about a week. After

at no further trouble was experienced. But the school had an unsavory reputation that had to be disciplined, and he used the means within his power.

The wife of Dr. Blain was a Miss MacRoberts, sister of Archibald MacRoberts, who made his home with them and told that panthers would sometimes enter their spring house and drink their milk. Mr. MacRoberts, whose father was a Randolph of Roanoke and descendant of Pocahontas, was the next teacher. He was well educated and a man of great talents that he used only under compulsion. He was a Whig, and in a campaign then being conducted between a Whig and

Democrat—in which the Whig was defeated in the argument—Mr. MacRoberts became so disgusted that he followed them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it suit to steer clear of his antagonist.

The next teacher was Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle, Christian character greatly endeared him to the people; and it is to be taken for granted that as he was instrumental in the building of the brick Academy he must have been the first teacher within its walls. Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County; Tyrees and others of Fayette County; the Hayneses and others of Monroe County; the Johnsons, Bears, and others of Greenbrier County; the Bensons, Lightners, and Ruckmans, of Highland County, Virginia. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the help of the more advanced pupils, notably Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haynes. It was his opinion that about eighty pupils were as many as one man could handle.

Mr. Kelso, of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey, of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one

school. Rev. Daniel A. Penick filled the position of teacher one year, boarded at Colonel Paul McNeel's, and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Mr. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeels, and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Mr. Emerson was said to be a relative of Ralph Waldo Emerson and a native of New England. Miss Mary S. Loverage, of Connecticut, taught in Hillsboro at the same time, but in a different building. Mr. Emerson became one of her most ardent admirers, but her choice fell to Mr. Henry Clark. Mr. Dunlap is under the impression that Mr. Emerson never married, which is an erroneous one because he established a school for young ladies at Shemariah, Augusta County, Virginia, in which he was assisted by his wife. Miss May Sprinkel taught in the home

of Colonel McNeel the first year of the Civil War and was betrothed to John Burgess, the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through the country.

From the foregoing interesting data it is easy to understand why so many noble and worthy lives were moulded in this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Harmanius Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, braved the perils of the deep on the rude craft of that day and came to dwell among us when the country was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their devoted piety accomplished much good in this the land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius Stulting, eldest son in the family, was a fine teacher for many years and died recently, mourned by all who knew him. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a daughter in the family, gave her life as a missionary to China, being sent as a member of the Oak Grove Church.

Rev. J. S. Kennison, a

the same church. The first permanent settler in the wilderness of the Hillsboro Community was John McNeel, of Frederick County, Virginia. He was of a pugilistic temperament and, in the fear that he had slain an antagonist, fled from his native land and became a fugitive who followed the trend of the Alleghanies. After spending some time in their gloomy depths he emerged into this section of the country and was so favorably impressed with the fertile land, fine timber, and the general outlook of a goodly place in which to dwell, that he cast his tent on the gentle slope between where are now the gate at the road and the Matthew John McNeel residence.

He came here in the year 1765. After he began to occupy his tent or camp, padded, muffled, footsteps were heard circling the camp at night. He feigned sleep, keeping his gun near at hand, until he heard something stealthily creep upon the poles forming the roof. When he looked in the direction of the sound he beheld, by the light of the camp fire, the fiery eyes of a panther. He lost no time getting rid of the unwelcome visitor.

One day while out hunting for venison and fish he met Charles and Jacob Kennison, natives of his home land, who proved angels in disguise in bringing to him the glad tidings that the man he thought he had killed had recovered and was in good health. Imagination fails to convey the great relief and gratitude that filled his heart to know he was not a murderer, of which his future life gave convincing evidence. He invited the Kennisons to share his camp and aided them in selecting a home site adjoining his tract. About this time John McNeel must have built himself a cabin in the rear of the Matthew John McNeel residence, near a wonderful spring in that locality. These three men soon returned to the lower valley of Virginia. It was on this visit that he married Martha Davis who was born in Wales in 1740. Soon after their marriage they came to the Little Levels to make their home. They brought



al Dyer says that he  
ed this is the end of  
ery that began with  
pearance in the Lo-  
of Walter G. Smith,  
ollansbee, a summer  
t Watoga State Park,  
4. Hauer was last  
following Monday.  
body, with three bul-  
s in the head, was  
Wednesday, June 11,  
obelia Saltpeter Cave,  
se to Hauer's home,  
ast will and testament  
Hauer's was found in  
e telling of the murder  
ere Smith's body was  
his own body would  
lly be found in a cave,  
e exhaustive search of  
the area that followed.  
ssion to print the pap-  
enied Monday as it is  
criminal evidence but  
ntly will have to be re-  
to effect the transfer of  
cre farm which Hauer  
to go to the Nature  
rancy, a national group  
ed to preserving areas  
natural state. The typ-  
was signed but not wit-

er had been indicted for  
s murder at the October  
of Court and so the case  
ed a murder-suicide and  
e considered closed.

## In Memory

### Peter Hauer

May God rest your  
soul and give you  
peace. And may  
your acts of kindness  
shine over the dark-  
ness of your passing.

Your Friends

### Mrs. Lloyd D. Wilson

Jessie Gray McFerrin  
n, 77, of Mill Point, died  
ay, May 15, 1978, at  
ar State Hospital after  
l years' illness.

was a schoolteacher be-  
er marriage to Lloyd  
n, who preceded her in  
in 1971. She was a  
er of the Marvin Chap-  
thodist Church.

s. Wilson was the daugh-  
the late Dr. Samuel A.  
rrin, Sr., and Mary Vir-  
Hanna McFerrin.

iving her are a brother,  
rd McFerrin, of Frank-  
and one nephew, Samuel  
McFerrin, III, of Renick.  
neral arrangements are  
plete

## History of Hillsboro Community

(Pocahontas County)

By Mary Isetta Wallace

The town of Hillsboro is  
located in a rich and beauti-  
ful valley. It is two and  
one-half miles from the  
nearest railroad station  
called Seebert and named  
in honor of a family by that  
name which settled there in  
the wilderness in the early  
days. Hillsboro was named  
for Richard Hill, the pio-  
neer from North Carolina,  
who built his home on a  
good farm in the neighbor-  
ing Lobelia. His house was  
an unusually good one for  
that age. Simon Girty, the  
renegade, told that Indians  
were so impressed with the  
fine display of the home of  
Mr. Hill that they called  
him white man's king.

The house was built of  
hewed logs, and the space  
between filled with wood,  
mortar or mud, and then  
white washed. It had three  
porches, two tall chimneys,  
and eight rooms. Hills  
Creek was named for Mr.  
Hill and, because of his  
sterling worth, "will sing  
his requiem as long as its  
waters flow." The creek  
flows through a narrow  
channel which increases its  
velocity until it plunges  
over a precipice sixty or  
more feet high forming a  
perfect spray and creating  
the beautiful Falls of Hills  
Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named  
after the first settler, John  
Bruffey, son of Patrick  
Bruffey, the pioneer, a  
revolutionary soldier under  
General Wayne, unites in  
time of flood with Hills  
Creek where their waters  
sink under Droop Mountain  
to appear again in the lower  
end of the Little Levels.  
Hills Creek forms Locust  
Creek and empties into the  
Greenbrier River. Bruffeys  
Creek forms Hughes Creek  
and after sinking and partly  
sinking for two miles, emp-  
ties into the Blue Hole.  
Many of the numerous  
progeny of Richard Hill  
founded their homes in the  
Hillsboro Community.

The majority of the peo-  
ple of Hillsboro Community  
are of Scotch-Irish descent,  
their chief pursuits being  
agriculture and stock rais-  
ing. Many fine herds of  
cattle and sheep, from time  
immemorial, have been  
prepared for the eastern  
markets and at the present

C. Willey, the farmers are  
becoming thoroughly  
aroused to the importance  
of purebred stock.

As the traveler ascends  
by an easy climb and gentle  
undulations the winding  
road cut on the face of  
Droop Mountain he beholds  
a panorama of unsurpassed  
loveliness when the sun  
pours his effulgent warmth  
and brightness over the  
mountains, plains, valleys  
and hills as they unite in  
proclaiming "The Lord  
reigneth, let the earth re-  
joice." He also beholds

historic ground, for it was  
at the foot of Droop Moun-  
tain where General Averill  
with 5000 men pitched their  
tents before the Battle of  
Droop Mountain which be-  
gan on November 6, 1863.

Hillsboro has always  
been a religious and educa-  
tional center. John Jordan  
of pioneer fame gave a  
building site to the Meth-  
odist church which was  
destroyed by fire and they  
have since built four other  
churches in the community  
and now worship in a very  
comfortable, commodious  
building in the town of  
Hillsboro. In extracts from  
the journal of Rev. Francis  
Asbury we find that in the  
years 1788, 1790 and 1796  
he had made three evange-  
listic tours through this  
section of the country com-  
ing up through Greenbrier  
County each time and being  
entertained and preaching  
at the home of McNeel in  
the Little Levels, going  
from there to the Drinnon  
home where he was receiv-  
ed "gladly" and entertain-  
ed "kindly" in the Edray  
neighborhood. His course  
led from there to Cloverlick  
down through Tygarts Val-  
ley in Randolph County  
enroute to Morgantown. At  
the McNeel home lively  
religious discussions were  
indulged in by the whole  
community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian  
Church was organized in  
the year of 1793. The early  
records of the Church were  
lost and no one remembers  
when it was built. A  
substantial brick structure  
in which this sect wor-  
shipped for many years was  
later built southeast of  
Hillsboro, where the ceme-  
tery is still kept up. In 1830  
the Church was reorganiz-  
ed and Josiah Beard, Davis  
Poague, and John Jordan  
were elected elders. The  
most distinguished minis-

47